

for monitoring other Bat Falcon populations in other neotropical forests.

A REVIEW OF THE BALD EAGLE TRANSLOCATION PROJECT IN ALASKA

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Since 1981, over 350 nestling bald eagles (52% of production) have been removed from a study area within old growth forest of southeast Alaska for reintroduction to other states. Helicopter surveys have been used to determine nest occupancy and success in the removal and control areas. No detrimental effect on productivity within the removal area has been detected. Reintroduction projects from states receiving Alaskan bald eagles are briefly discussed.

FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN PREY SELECTION BY RESIDENT BALD EAGLES IN THE BREEDING AND NONBREEDING SEASON

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Implicit in the assumptions of modern foraging theory is that animals are capable of exercising choice in their foraging decisions. However, few empirical studies demonstrating such choice have been conducted. We devised a simple field experiment offering a choice of two prey items of unequal sizes to foraging bald eagles in the breeding and nonbreeding season. The objective of the field experiment was to determine if eagles nonrandomly selected one prey item over another, and if this choice varied between breeding and nonbreeding season. A total of 67 trials was conducted on four nesting pairs of eagles, 32 trials in the breeding season and 35 in the nonbreeding season. At each of the four territories, eagles selected the large fish during the breeding season more frequently than expected on the basis of chance. In the nonbreeding season, eagles took the large fish in about equal numbers as the small fish. However, eagles failed to take either fish 37.1% of the time during the nonbreeding season. This compares to only one instance of no response (3.1%) for breeding season trials. Mean response time was generally shorter in the breeding season than the nonbreeding season and eagles responded more quickly when they took the large fish irrespective of season. The latter result suggests that hunger level may have affected the eagle's decision to take the large fish. We conclude that eagles discriminate between large and small prey items and may alter their prey selection based upon hunger levels and increased energetic requirements of the breeding season. These results suggest additional reasons why food habits of bald eagles vary between the breeding and nonbreeding season.

HABITAT USED BY BALD EAGLES WINTERING ALONG THE SOUTH FORK BOISE RIVER, IDAHO

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Foraging and perching habitats used by bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) wintering along the South Fork Boise River in southwestern Idaho were studied during the winters of 1990-91 and 1991-92. Aerial surveys showed that eagles concentrated mostly along a 25 km stretch of river located in mature cottonwood trees (*Populus trichocarpa*) and preyed upon largescale suckers (*Catostomus macrochielus*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). River and surrounding habitat characteristics were measured at each prey capture and perching site, as well as at an equal sample of random sites. River habitat type, depth, velocity, number of surrounding perches, and proximity to the nearest river habitat change were among variables measured at each site. Eagles selected deeper and slower habitats (pools) for foraging more than expected. Abundance of fish, both alive and dead, was found to be higher at pools than other habitat types. Eagles also used habitats containing more surrounding perches than were available at random. In addition to pools, transitional river habitat types (23% of use sites) were used more often than available (14% of random sites measured). Findings may aid managers in identification or protection of key foraging habitats within existing wintering areas. Results indicated the importance of pools, transitional zones, and riparian habitats containing stands of mature cottonwood trees. Recommendations for flow regimes and land-use practices along dammed, riverine habitats used by bald eagles will be made to ensure healthy riparian vegetation and the availability of mature cottonwoods.

RESPONSIVENESS OF NESTING NORTHERN GOSHAWKS TO TAPED BROADCASTS OF THREE CONSPECIFIC CALLS

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We wanted to determine if broadcasting conspecific vocalizations of northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) increased their detectability during the nesting seasons, because locating nest sites of this forest-dwelling raptor is difficult and time-consuming. Consequently, we recorded responses of northern goshawks to an observer walking transects and either broadcasting alarm, wail and juvenile begging calls of goshawks or not broadcasting during 1990 in northcentral New Mexico and northcentral Arizona. We sampled 215 transects at 27 northern goshawk nests during sampling periods associated with courtship, nestling, and fledgling-dependency during the nesting season.